M

Secto. II-37—100,000—31-5-52.

Development (1954 9) Department.

M3 SERIES.

G.O. No. 6332

Dated 23. 12. 1948.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Agriculture - Soil Erosion - Prevention of - Steps taken in Reynella-one - Legislative Assembly Question - Papers Recorded.

SOIL EROSION IN RAYALASEEMA.

485 - Question - SRI. N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:- Will the Hon'ble the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps by propaganda and departmental action to check soil erosion and preserve fertility of soil in Rayalaseema;

(b) whether the Problem has been studied by experiments at Siruguppa and other Agricultural Research Stations in Rayalaseema;

(c) if so, what the results obtained by such studies are and whether they have been made available to agriculturists at large;

(d) whether it is a fact that certain members of the Soil Erosi Erosion Committee of the Central Government visited Siruguppa recently forinspection; and

(e) if so, what is the advice given by them and what steps the Madras Government have taken to carry out that advice?

THE HON'BLE SRI. K. MADHAVA MENON:- "(a) Yes. The Agricultural Department is conducting propaganda in the Ceded districts for the maintenance of soil fertility, to check soil erosion and to control run-off of rain water. The methods advocated by the Agricultural Department for controlling erosion are bunding of fields by bund-formers where the land is fairly flat, cultivation of cover crops along contours to arrest the flow of water, plugging of gullies caused by run-off and proper levelling and bunding of fields.

"(b). The methods advocated at present in the Ceded districts by the Agricultural Department for checking soil erosion and the preservation of soil fertility are the results of research and experimental work conducted at the Agricultural Research Station, Hagari, between 1934-43.

"(c). The experiments conducted at Hagari have shown increased yield in the bunded areas when compared with the yield of the non-bunded fields under similar conditions. The dry farming methods have been adopted with success on a developmental scale from 1943-48 on the lands of private ryots adjacent to the Hagari Research Station and the cultivators in the area have been made conscious of the advantages of this system. The Grow More Food Five-year Plan relating to Agricultural department includes a scheme for undertaking bunding and terracing on a large scale in the Ceded districts.

"d) A batch of expert members of the Government of India Soil Conservation Board recently visited the area selected for large-scale contour-bunding and terracing in Bellary district and after inspecting the place have expressed the view that the spot chosen for the pilot scheme is suitable for the work. This spot is about 5 miles from Bellary on the Bellary-Siruguppa road.

"(e). No report has yet been received from the Government of India experts.

SRI. N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:- "May I know, Sir, if afforestation has been tried to check soil erosion and if so, in how many cases have they grown forests?"

THE HON'BLE SRI. K. MADHAVA MENON:- "Afforestation has not been tried in Rayalaseema districts".

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/True copy/

Office Assistant,

Madras Record Office.

k.y.s. 1.9.

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The Legislative Assembly question on page 1 c.f. has been answered in the Assembly. Please see page 9 c.f. No further action is pending in this file. The papers may be recorded. Assistant Secretary-II may see the point raised at 'A' on page 6 c.f. for any consideration.

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9.12.

Let the Forest sections see and note on the point if there any papers with them.

x x x
10.12.1948.

With reference to 'A' on page 9 c.f. and to the Assistant Secretary's orders at 'M' above, it is submitted that the following afforestation schemes in Rayalaseema districts have been undertaken by the Government with a view to preventing sand dunes from destroying houses and cultivable lands in those districts.

(1) Afforestation on the banks of the Hagari and Penmeru rivers; and

(2) Afforestation on the banks of the Pennar river.

(1) Afforestation on the banks of the Hagari and the Penneru rivers in Bellary district:-

This scheme is intended for the afforestation of a half of areas along the eastern bank of the Hagari extending from the Hagari Agricultural Farm to the Molea Plantations to a distance of about 8 miles to prevent the drifting of sand and thereby to protest the agricultural land and the country side. By about January 1945 the entire area was planted. The protection afforded by the planted belt excluded grazing in the area to a considerable extent. It has brought about or very noticeable increase in vegetation of these sandy areas with satisfactory results from the point of view of fixing the sand. In March 1945, the Government sanctioned a bigger scheme namely:- (a) afforestation of the banks of the Hagari from the Mysore border northwards by raising or net work of wind belts wherever possible and by regenerating the space in-tervening the wind belts mainly with

(b) examination of the possibilities of growing village and firewood plantations in localities other than the banks of the Hagari.

(c) Afforestation of the Tungabhadra canal margin; and

(d) reservation and regeneration of the large areas particularly on the hill slopes that are bare and demuded of all tree growth.

In connection with the above scheme a forest officer has been posted on special duty with headquarters at Bellary to work under the conservator, Bellary circle. The results obtained were reported on the whole to be good.

(2) Afforestation on the banks of the Pennar river in Cuddapah District:- With a view to prevent damage to the Agricultural land and agriculturists' houses near the banks of the Pennar river, the Chief Conservator of Forests submitted proposals for planting trees to or width of 2 chains on the banks of the Pennar river from Proddatur to Jamalamadugu in the Cuddapah district, a distance of 13 miles from east to west as a wind belt. While the Chief Conservator's proposals were under the consideration of the Government, it was urged that the planting operations connected with the raising of the wind belt in question might be undertaken in the last year itself in view of the growing menace to the villagers on account of the sand dunes. The work was therefore taken on hand pending issue of final orders by Government and planting was done on the eastern banks of the river to a width of two chains over a distance of 6 miles and 3 furlongs at an estimated cost of Rs. 15,000/- during the last year itself. It was then proposed to plant the remaining length of left bank and on the whole length of the right bank after inspection in 1948. The Chief Conservator of Forest has since furnished the estimate of cost for planting the remaining length of 7 miles on the left bank and over a length of 13 miles on the right bank of the river in 1948 as also the actual expenditure incurred on the planting that was done in 1947. During the course of the examination of these estimates it has been suggested that the pattadars who are to be benefitted by the plantation in question should pay a contribution which may not exceed 50% of the net cost of the scheme but that if the area benefitted by the plantations in question is not large it may not be possible to recover any substantial portion of the loss from the pattadars. The Chief Conservator of Forests has therefore been asked to furnish precise information regarding the area likely to be benefitted and the attitude of the owners of the lands in that area in regarding to making a contribution to recover a part of the cost as suggested above. The Chief Conservator of Forests's reply in the matter is awaited.

In the circumstances, no separate action seems called for with reference to 'A' on page 9 c.f. The papers may be recorded after perusal by the Hon'ble Minister (Agriculture).

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14.12.

x x x
14.12.

x x x
12.12.

K.G. Menon,
19.12.

G.O. No. 6332 dated 23 December 1948, Agriculture. K.M.
Agriculture - Soil Erosion - Prevention of - Steps taken in Rayalaseema - Legislative Assembly Question - ... Papers - Recorded. 22.12.

/True copy/

Office Assistant,
Madras Record Office.

k.y.s. 1.9.